

# **Lafayette County Conservation and Zoning Office**



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\* These minutes are subject to the approval of the Land Conservation Committee on 9/1/2015 \*

## **MINUTES MEETING OF THE LAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE USDA AG CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Chairman Leon Wolfe. Others present: Bartels, J. Wiegel, Bartz, Brandt, Lange, Loeffelholz, and Larson. Others present: David Bainbridge & Grandson Luke. Excused: Hammer, James

Larson stated that the agenda was posted in the USDA Service Center, by the County Clerk's Office, the Darlington Municipal Building, the Darlington Post Office, on the Lafayette County Webpage; and was sent to the press, the State Agencies, and NRCS. It was also sent to Representative Novak.

Motion was made by J. Wiegel and second by Bartels to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion made by J. Wiegel and second by Bartels to approve the minutes of the 6/2/2015 LCC meeting. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None

**Bainbridge-Rental Agreement-Discussion & Possible Action:** Bainbridge introduced himself and his grandson Luke. He stated that we have been in the building about 20 years. Wolfe stated that it has been a good building and kept updated. Bainbridge is proposing an increase in the rent to \$15.50/sq. ft., and he does plan on re-doing the parking lot. He wants the rent to be able to cover update costs. LCD is paying less than the Federal government for the space. Keeping them here makes it a one-stop shop for farmers. There is also adequate parking for trailers and trucks. Wolfe agreed that the agencies should be housed together. He said that it is not a question of the increase, but the timing for the budget.

The County contract would be for 4 years at the \$15.50 rate, and would be January 1, 2016 – May 31, 2018. The longer term agreement is better for the County also. The increase would be \$227.75 per month or \$2,733 per year.

Bainbridge stated that he plans on re-doing the parking lot, and possible future changes for the lighting, heating & cooling systems, now uses carpet squares for easier replacement.

Motion by Bartels and second by J. Wiegel to budget for the rent increase for the Contract to run January 1, 2016 – May 31, 2018. Motion carried

### **Field Staff & Department Head Report:**

A Tech report by Brandt:

- The August DATCP report yesterday gave a reminder to everyone regarding safeguards for manure storage. A father & son in Chippewa County lost their lives going into a 4' pipe and being overcome by gases.
- There are 6 new, 43 cow dairies; 3 in Lamont. Deep gutters are being replaced by the use of old LP tanks to help build pressure. They have been calling the Conservation office out to the sites.
- Dead chicken issue – Stoltzfus did get a citation, and has met with Brandt to get the chicken composting standards. Officer Morrissey & Brandt will go out to revisit the site. How is the milk pumped? Hauler has a motor in his truck to pump it.
- Site showing at the old Eastwood abandonment. They want to keep the building, but abandon the storage. They will need to do a sniff test to determine if it can be field spread. Four of the five contractors were at the site showing. Bids are due on Friday. If they abandon 4-6' of fill they will still have headroom for equipment. It is owned by Greg's Feed & Seed.
- Fish tank – The white sucker was the only casualty. The trailer is rusting out, and this will be the last year for this one. They will be getting another one with a new cooling system, but availability will still be questionable.
- DNR has gotten enough pressure that they put on a webinar, and are doing a fact sheet.

Tech report from Lange:

- On the Snap+ schedule, the September 15 class has been changed to September 10. Sue Porter will not be available to help in December. Mark Jenks will take Sue's place, and Bartz from NRCS will also help. So far, 7-8 landowners are scheduled for the training. Stoltzfus has said he would also participate. Bartels asked what Snap+ is, and Lange explained it is a computer program for writing your own nutrient management plan. He also stated that soil samples are \$8/sample, but more like \$20 if crop consultant does it. The UW Soils Lab in Madison is now closed, and samples need to go to Marshfield. We may be able to drop samples in Madison, and they will take them to Marshfield.
- 76 Status reviews have been completed, and 6 of those are new ones in full compliance. This is higher than other years.

Loeffelholz stated that he has been working with Coreen Fallat and Alison Volk of DATCP in regards to a RCPP Grant. This would be another funding source, and we would be working with the Federal office for the two AEA's in the County. If the pre-proposal is accepted we will need to do a proposal, but we won't know until January 1, 2016.

Phosphorus and the sewer plants – If a farm lowers its phosphorus, it can be credited for the sewer plants, and the farmer can be paid by the municipality, and through the County who pays for the decrease. The payment may be \$50/acre. Argyle is looking at engineering, bricks & mortar. Nutrient crediting/trading takes more of a buy-in for reduction by the Community. Buffers with haying could be a lease between a farmer and the municipality. The State is applying to EPA for variance that would tie to what the County is doing. There are many undetermined aspects yet.

The office has been out to document the Amish sites and the 2' of clay. Bill Corley is the reason we are able to work on these projects. We are trying to get them to use the backhoe first to be able to determine siting.

- The Local Work Group meeting in Belmont was well-attended

-They have 9 Cover Crop contracts , 2 Pollinator contracts, and have been working on Managed Forest

**Law contracts with Singer.** You can apply for cost share if you have 20 acres of woods.

-Completed cost share: 34 EOIP contracts	\$332,000
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5 CSP contracts	\$43,000
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Lafayette is 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the State for contract completion.

-CRP- Sign up is December 1, 2015. There are 30 with renewal and all new ones will need to be looked at. Rental rates are pretty good. HELI is new. \$279 for best soil/acre. The lowest is \$175 or \$180 on rocky ground. Next year it could be adjusted down again.

-Wolfe asked about the 590 plans and the new proposal. It would apply to all the soils in Lafayette County. Set backs to water would be set applying to slope. Those he spoke with felt it would be pretty tough standards. They are being geared statewide based on extreme sites. There is considerable concern at WLWCA regarding the dual standards. Bartz stated that Bramblett is working with a new Conservation Activity plan.

**Land Records Update & Position-Discussion & Possible Action:** Ritchie has turned in her resignation. She has vacation this week, but will work some tomorrow. There is a Land Information Council meeting on August 20 at 3:30. We will bring it back here in September. There may be duty changes while back-filling. It takes time to do it right. J. Wiegel stated that Aulik will move forward with the system update. She met with Ritchie last to discuss office projects. Wolfe commented that now is the time to re-write and/or add duties.

**Other Agency Reports:** None

**Plastics Recycling:** UWEX meets tomorrow, and they will discuss it there. Kory Stalsberg is now on board and wants to work together. For now, ag plastics can be taken to Green County. It is only on certain days, and is in Brodhead. They feel that those over 25 miles probably won't go that far. Loeffelholz said he had spoken with Ed at Faherty's, and they won't do it unless we educate people ahead of time. He doesn't want dirt in them. We need to get out polybags out to farmers to keep the plastic free of dirt, snow, & ice. The Sauk County collection didn't want any of the plastic that stretches. Missouri will take that, but none will take the net wrap.

**In Correspondence:** 1) Bartels asked Bartz about CRP with saplings and weeds. She said that it will not be eligible to re-sign a contract.

2) Schulte's phoned in regarding a 2010 contract and a Lovelace bill for work done in 2011. They emailed a copy of the bill. We found that we had no contract on file, and approval of a Schulte contract for well abandonment. The Committee had discussed this last month and turned down the request. It was decided to send a copy of last months approved minutes with a rejection letter stating their option to send a letter of appeal with evidence.

3) Those attending the Southern Area Association (SAA) meeting and tour in Richland Center will meet at the office on Aug. 6 at 7:45 a.m.

**Approval of Vouchers:** Motion to approve the vouchers by J. Wiegel and second by Bartels. Motion carried.

**Future agenda items:** Ag Plastics, Land Records

The next meeting of the LCC will be Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by J. Wiegel and second by Wang to adjourn the meeting at 11:04 a.m. Motion carried.

Recorded By

Nikki Larson  
For Leon Wolfe  
LCC Secretary

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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